

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claim 1 has been amended as discussed below. New dependent Claims 9-22 have been added in order to provide more comprehensive protection for certain aspects of the invention. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 9-22 are pending.

Without acceding to the rejection on Shimizu '829 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Claim 1 has been amended to set forth certain distinctive features of the invention more precisely. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to add that the elastic members include a first elastic member and a second elastic member respectively interposed between the ends of a race of the bearing and respective abutment surfaces. See, for example, elastic flanges 65 in Fig. 3 and elastic bushings 61 in Figs. 4 and 5.

It is apparent that Shimizu '829 fails to suggest the foregoing arrangement of elastic members now set forth in Claim 1. Likewise, no suggestion thereof is seen in the remaining art of record. Moreover, as will be evident, the newly presented dependent claims distinguish even further from the prior art.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn and that this application now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit

any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 26, 2004.


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